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Level 4 – 1st September 2025

Ocean acidification a danger to sharks' teeth

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-4.html>

The climate crisis may be a threat to the existence of sharks. The acidification of oceans is decaying sharks' teeth. Scientists already know that increasing ocean acidity is damaging corals and sea creatures with shells. Biologists looked at whether shark teeth are at similar risk. Many sharks swim with their mouths open and are constantly exposed to seawater. The researcher concluded that even the teeth of sharks are now vulnerable to damage.

The researcher analyzed teeth from blacktip reef sharks. He put the teeth in separate water tanks for eight weeks. The salt water in one had an acidity level similar to current ocean averages. The water in the other tank was more acidic. The teeth in the more acidic water had visible damage, including cavities, root decay, and structural deterioration. Ongoing damage could impact how sharks feed. This could trigger "domino effects" across marine ecosystems.

Sources: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/sharks-may-losing-bite-170000952.html>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/08/27/science/ocean-acidification-shark-teeth>
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/27/ocean-acidification-erodes-sharks-teeth-affecting-feeding>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. a threat to the existence | a. similar risk |
| 2. The acidification of oceans is decaying | b. seawater |
| 3. increasing ocean acidity is damaging | c. of sharks |
| 4. sea creatures | d. to damage |
| 5. shark teeth are at | e. corals |
| 6. Many sharks swim with their | f. sharks' teeth |
| 7. constantly exposed to | g. mouths open |
| 8. the teeth of sharks are now vulnerable | h. with shells |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. teeth from blacktip reef | a. sharks feed |
| 2. He put the teeth in separate water | b. more acidic |
| 3. an acidity level similar to current | c. ecosystems |
| 4. The water in the other tank was | d. visible damage |
| 5. The teeth in the more acidic water had | e. sharks |
| 6. Ongoing damage could impact how | f. effects |
| 7. This could trigger domino | g. ocean averages |
| 8. marine | h. tanks |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-4.html>

The climate crisis may be (1) _____ the existence of sharks. The acidification of (2) _____ sharks' teeth. Scientists (3) _____ increasing ocean acidity is damaging corals and sea (4) _____. Biologists looked at whether shark teeth are (5) _____. Many sharks swim with their mouths open and are constantly exposed to seawater. The researcher concluded that even the teeth of sharks are now (6) _____.

The researcher (7) _____ blacktip reef sharks. He put the teeth in separate water tanks for eight weeks. (8) _____ in one had an acidity level similar to (9) _____. The water in (10) _____ was more acidic. The teeth in the more acidic water had visible damage, (11) _____ decay, and structural deterioration. Ongoing damage could impact how sharks feed. This could (12) _____ across marine ecosystems.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-4.html>

The climate crisis may be a threat to the existence of sharks. The acidification of oceans is decaying sharks' teeth. Scientists already know that increasing ocean acidity is damaging corals and sea creatures with shells. Biologists looked at whether shark teeth are at similar risk. Many sharks swim with their mouths open and are constantly exposed to seawater. The researcher concluded that even the teeth of sharks are now vulnerable to damage. The researcher analyzed teeth from blacktip reef sharks. He put the teeth in separate water tanks for eight weeks. The salt water in one had an acidity level similar to current ocean averages. The water in the other tank was more acidic. The teeth in the more acidic water had visible damage, including cavities, root decay, and structural deterioration. Ongoing damage could impact how sharks feed. This could trigger "domino effects" across marine ecosystems.

SHARKS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about sharks in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

